

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) An absorbent article comprising:

a barrier layer;

a cover layer extending substantially parallel to said barrier layer; and

a superabsorbent polymer ~~interposed between said cover layer and~~ disposed directly on said barrier layer, said superabsorbent polymer being adhered to said article in a pattern configured to distribute fluid in said absorbent article, wherein at least one portion of said absorbent article extending essentially completely across said absorbent article is substantially devoid of said superabsorbent polymer; and

~~a core interposed between said cover layer and said barrier layer, said core having a first surface closest to the barrier layer and a second surface opposite the first surface and closest to the cover layer, wherein said superabsorbent polymer is applied to said core in said pattern, and concentration of the superabsorbent polymer varies through a thickness of the core from the first surface to the second surface, with the highest concentration of the superabsorbent polymer being at a portion of the first surface of the core closest to the barrier layer and the second surface of the core being devoid of said superabsorbent polymer, said core being selected from the group consisting of tissue and~~

paper towel sheet.

2. (canceled)

3. (original) The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein said pattern is configured to increase resistance of said absorbent article to tearing, said at least one portion of said absorbent article extending essentially completely across said absorbent article being more resistant to tearing than at least one other portion of said absorbent article.

4. (canceled)

5. (canceled)

6. (original) The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein said barrier layer comprises a material selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene, copolymers of polyethylene and polypropylene, polyester, and bi-component fibers.

7. (original) The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein said cover layer comprises one or both of a non-woven material and an apertured film.

8. (original) The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein said pattern forms at least one region including said superabsorbent polymer and at least one continuous zone that is substantially devoid of said superabsorbent polymer, said continuous zone having greater tear resistance than said region including said superabsorbent polymer.

9. (original) The absorbent article of claim 8 wherein said pattern is selected from the group consisting of a spiral pattern, a melt blown pattern, a multi-tracked pattern, a full coat pattern, a zoned spray pattern, and an intermittent pattern.

10. (original) The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein said superabsorbent polymer is formed from one or more of a polymer in liquid form and a polymer formed by conversion of a superabsorbent precursor, said superabsorbent precursor comprising one or both of a monomer and an oligomer.

Claims 11-17 (cancelled)